transforming lives, one pet at a time

We are frequently asked, “Are you a no kill shelter?” The honest answer is simply this—no one, not even the organizations calling themselves “no kill,” are 100% no kill. From time to time, every shelter and rescue group is faced with having to euthanize pets that are too ill to have any quality of life or are so aggressive they cannot be safely adopted. Even the highly respected Best Friends Animal Society euthanizes pets whose suffering is too great.

Virtually all organizations who call themselves “no kill” are limited admission turning pets away when they are full. For over 25 months, Animal Humane, an open admissions shelter, has found homes for 100% of the healthy pets in our care. We are even more pleased that in 2011, we also rehabilitated and re-homed over 850 pets with behavioral or medical issues, including 42 dogs and cats that were in our care for over 100 days before they were adopted. Peighton, an Australian Cattle Dog mix was one of the “100 Dayers.” Peighton came to us as a result of her high-prey drive towards smaller animals. She had no leash skills or manners. Our staff and volunteers invested tremendous time teaching her these skills using our Life Skills program so she would become adoptable. Following careful screening by our adoptions team, we found her the right home. Peighton is an example of the success of our behavior rehabilitation program and dedication of our adoptions staff and volunteers. She now lives in the lap of luxury, enjoying the love and companionship of her new pet parents.

Last year, Animal Humane’s euthanasia rate decreased again achieving an all time low of 10%. Getting to this point did not happen overnight or by accident. It took focus and the investment of time, money and human resources. We followed a road map to get there and the journey, made possible by our dedicated staff, volunteers, Board of Directors and the wonderful generosity of you, our donors, is not over by any means. That road map is our Humane Equation.

Animal Humane | New Mexico’s Humane Equation

1. **Feral Cat Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR):** Our TNR program began in 2008. As of December 2011, over 7,250 cats have been sterilized leading to a 17% drop in kitten intakes at Animal Humane in 2011. This program has been funded by PetSmart Charities, New Mexico Animal Friends (NMAF), the City of Albuquerque’s Kennel Kompadres, and anonymous Animal Humane donors.

2. **High-Volume, Low-Cost Spay/Neuter:** In addition to sterilizing every shelter pet, Animal Humane has operated a high-volume spay/neuter program for pets belonging to low-income owners since 2007. Over the past five years, 41,500 pets have been sterilized at our clinic including nearly 12,000 pets owned by low-income clients.

3. **Rescue Groups:** Animal Humane works actively with over 200 rescue groups, including NMAF, People’s Anti-Cruelty Society (PACA), EnchantMutts, and members of MAGC, The Maddie’s Fund Adoption Guarantee Coalition. Our full list of rescue partners is posted on animalhumanenm.org.

4. **Foster Care:** Our Foster Care program has grown from 25 foster homes in 2008 to over 140 homes today. In 2011, more than 1,000 pets were fostered. Animal Humane’s...
new Foster2Home (see page 3 for more details), a volunteer-driven program, will place shelter-stressed pets in foster homes. Our foster parents will find new, loving homes for our pets with Animal Humane providing marketing and support services.

5. Comprehensive Adoption Programs: Animal Humane’s Adoptions Team works hard to ensure that pets adopted from us stay in their new homes. We offer many adoption programs in addition to our satellite adoption centers on Montgomery Boulevard and on Corrales Road, including free adoptions to senior citizens, reduced adoption fees on senior pets, adoption incentives such as zero-cost adoptions for cats over 2 years of age, our Cats Around Town (CAT!) program, and over 100 mobile adoption events annually. Our Meet-Your-Match™ program combined with our adoption qualifications and counseling, have led to a consistently low return rate of 6% or less.

6. Pet Retention: Programs include a Free Behavior Helpline, Train Humane manners classes, Pet Emergency Shelter for victims of domestic violence, a free Pet Food Bank, and our Pet Save fund providing financial assistance to owners to prevent the need for pet surrenders or euthanasia due to high medical costs.

7. Medical and Behavior Rehabilitation: Started in 2007, the Animal Humane Behavior Team performs behavior assessments on every dog that enters our shelter. Our team also supervises doggie play groups, trains volunteers, and oversees our cat and dog Behavior Modification programs. Our Petables volunteers work with animals needing extra attention to prepare them for adoption. All dog walkers teach our dogs Life Skills (settle, sit, down, wait) to increase their adoptability as many dogs that reach our doors have received little or no training.

8. Public Relations, Community Involvement: Promoting adoptable pets is a daily effort, with featured Pet of the Week media placements at 12 TV and radio stations. We regularly provide content for feature articles in Local iQ and Albuquerque The Magazine. The annual Buy a Cookie, Save a Pet campaign presented by Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee each April, raises community awareness about the needs of homeless pets. Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee donate a significant portion of the proceeds to Animal Humane’s shelter operations. Animal Humane also receives and seeks regular news coverage on key animal welfare issues with all local media outlets. Our Executive Director sits on the Animal Sheltering Board and is currently Chair of the Shelter Standards Committee. Our volunteer-staffed Humane Education Outreach Team provides many presentations annually to schools and Native American pueblos. We are working to end dog fighting by teaching agility and humane treatment of all pets through our 505 Pit Crew program (see page 5 for more details) which touches hundreds of children and young adults annually. All of these efforts generate ongoing involvement and understanding about solutions for homeless pets.

9. Volunteers: Animal Humane’s volunteer force has grown from 70 active members in 2007 to over 425 in 2011. We provide a comprehensive training program for all volunteers. Volunteers assist with adoptions, photographing and profiling pets, dog walking, socialization and training, cat grooming and socialization, fostering, spay/neuter and surgical recovery, and many more tasks to help increase adoptions.

10. Proactive Redemptions: We offer a $50 reward to any Animal Humane employee who reconnects a lost pet with their owner. Every pet is scanned for a microchip at intake. Volunteers review Lost and Found ads and postings several times a week to reunite lost pets at our shelter with their owners; efforts that led to 235 pet reunions in 2011. In addition, we proactively work to increase the number of microchipped pets in our community by microchipping every adopted pet and offering monthly vaccination and microchip clinics to the public.

11. Compassionate Director: Through leadership, goal setting and program development, Animal Humane’s euthanasia is down 65% since the beginning of the Executive Director’s tenure. The current rate is 10% of intakes—all for medical or behavioral reasons. No healthy pets have been euthanized at Animal Humane since December 2009. The Executive Director also led the creation of the Maddie’s Fund Adoption Guarantee Coalition in December 2010, paving the way to make Bernalillo County an adoption guarantee community. Together with the City Animal Welfare Department, PACA, NMAF and EnchantMutts, we are working to adopt every healthy treatable pet into loving homes in our community.

Ending pet homelessness takes focus, commitment and the concerted effort of many dedicated players. The valuable contributions between Animal Humane staff and our many volunteers make all the difference in the world to countless pets like Peighton. Our hope is that we can count on your continued compassion and support for the coming year in furthering the efforts we make on behalf of the pets in our care.

Peggy Weigle
Executive Director

Peggy and Garfield, a handsome three-legged boy waiting for his forever home.
We place great value on the contributions Animal Humane volunteers make and their impact can be felt in every part of our organization. To harness their passion and talents, Jaclyn Sinclair, Volunteer and Community Outreach Director, created Animal Humane’s Volunteer Leadership Council. One of the first initiatives the Council identified was the opportunity to save more pets’ lives through the implementation of a creative and impactful addition to our foster care efforts.

The new foster program created by our Volunteer Leadership Council is called Foster2Home. This innovative program finds semi-permanent foster homes for long-term pet residents who need a break from living in a shelter, or dogs and cats having challenges adjusting to the stress of a shelter environment. Foster2Home allows these pets to remain in a home until they are adopted. Foster2Home volunteers become their foster pets’ champion and take on the responsibility of promoting and working to find the perfect home for their foster. We provide them with resources to promote their pet to the public, and they are encouraged to actively seek venues and opportunities to have their foster pet seen by potential adopters. Foster2Home parents also receive training from Boni Garlaneau, Animal Humane’s Foster Care Coordinator, and are assigned a mentor. Mentors conduct regular check-ins sharing wisdom and experience along with doggie day care, behavior and training tips and much more.

Shelters with similar fostering programs have identified a whole new market for adopting their pets. People who have never visited a shelter or a shelter website have adopted foster pets because they were visible in their communities!

One unique advantage of our Foster2Home program is that pets coming into our shelter following the death of their owners may be quickly placed in, and adopted from, foster homes after their medical and behavior evaluations. Senior pets, as well as pets undergoing medical treatment, will be placed in “hospice” with foster parents committed to providing a loving, stable home environment for the remaining days of these pets’ lives. Given that this is a top concern for pet owners preparing their wills—we wanted to create a comforting option for pet lovers who choose to include Animal Humane in their estate plans.

Boni, marking the third year leading our Foster Care Program, moved into our renovated Foster Care building in late November. The move came at the perfect time as we ramped up our foster efforts, including the launch of our Foster2Home program.

We would love for you to become a foster parent. We’re seeking fosters to care for dogs and cats in their homes as well as volunteers to assist with administrative tasks, mentoring and marketing. For more information please contact: Boni Garlaneau, bonig@animalhumanenm.org or 505.991.0056 or Jaclyn Sinclair, jaclyns@animalhumanenm.org or 505.938.7887.

PNM Chooses Animal Humane...Again!

Renovations in our Foster Care building include new, energy-efficient windows, courtesy of the PNM Resources Foundation. Animal Humane was one of the recipients of their annual Reduce Your Use grant for the fourth year in a row! Now our pets, while under the watchful eye of our staff and volunteers, will be kept comfortable year-round due to PNM continued investment in our three-acre campus!
A lot of things may come to mind when you hear the words “poop scooper” or “shelter worker.” Allow me to clear up a few misconceptions.

When it comes to tackling the responsibilities at hand, day-in and day-out, our Animal Care Department is SUPERB. A typical day in the life of an animal care attendant includes: vaccinating all incoming animals with an average of 6 vaccines per pet, conducting initial health exams on each incoming dog and cat, recording all medical details in each individual animal’s record, disinfecting and sanitizing all animal housing areas on campus and maintaining them throughout the day, and transporting all animals to and from our Donor-Subsidized Veterinary Clinic for spay/neuter, or at the request of any one of our three veterinarians. But the most challenging of these responsibilities, in my opinion, is euthanasia. There is not another job in the world that asks you to love, care for, and nurture a pet one day, and then the next day asks you to possibly put that same pet to sleep because of health or behavioral issues.

How does someone measure devotion? Since joining Animal Humane in 2006, rain or shine, snow or blizzard, and even in below freezing temperatures, the pets in our care have never gone without proper care and attention or have even been thrown off schedule. This is due to the dedication of our Animal Care Department showing up at 7 am each day to carry out all necessary morning duties, making sure our pets needs are taken care of before we welcome the public in at 10 am.

In closing, I would like to share that the national turnover rate for animal care attendants is nearly 40%. In comparison, Animal Humane’s Animal Care Department turnover rate was 0% in 2011.

Now perhaps the next time you hear the words “poop scooper” or “shelter worker” a few other ideas will spring to mind. I am extremely proud of our Animal Care Department at Animal Humane | New Mexico.

Armando Vargas, Jr.
Animal Care Supervisor

2011 Top Adoptions Advisor
Rex Nowacki, 408 Adoptions!!

Rex Nowacki found the perfect match for his skills and passion when he joined the Animal Humane Adoptions Team in September 2010. By night, this Albuquerque native spends time with his two rescue dogs, Benta and Royal. By day, Rex works diligently to pair Animal Humane’s dogs with their perfect pet parents.

What’s the secret to Rex’s success? “Knowing our dogs really well. You always have a couple of dogs sitting in the back of your mind,” says Rex. Based on responses to our Meet-Your-Match™ survey and his team’s intimate knowledge of each pets’ personality, in particular dogs that have been with us the longest, our Adoptions Team are able to make the perfect connections, and, as Rex states, “That’s when the fun begins!”

Rex adds, “It’s the best when you’ve done something for someone...even better, when you’ve done something for a dog that no one considered adopting.”

Animal Humane’s Marketing Director,
Rob Raucci

My father and grandfather, both writers, had a wonderful and humorous take on life. Art in the blood takes many different shapes and in my life that was certainly the case. I went from artist to actor to director, writer and screenwriter to filmmaker—and I mixed some radio in there too.

My career got its start in the advertising/graphic arts and marketing fields in Chicago. My life partner Joanne and I then moved to Albuquerque where I became a radio professional while Joanne pursued her calling to be a minister.

My passion for helping animals heightened after doing research on a screenplay I wrote on dog fighting. I yearned to work for an animal welfare association or shelter but I knew it would take time, patience, plenty of visioning and a whole lot of prayers. But here I am and I am grateful.
It's the 8th annual *Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee Buy A Cookie, Save A Pet Campaign*

Mmm-mm, good! And mmm-mm, great! Good, because we’re talking about Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee’s scrumptious sugar cookies; and great, because starting April 1st Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee’s Buy A Cookie, Save A Pet Campaign kicks off. The proceeds of this wonderful month-long cookie sale benefit the pets in Animal Humane’s care.

“Over the past seven years of this campaign, the dedication of Flying Star Cafe, Satellite Cofee, our employees and our guests has resulted in donations of over $154,000,” says Lindsay Hertz, Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee’s Marketing Director. “This money assisted Animal Humane in building New Mexico’s first low-cost veterinary clinic for low-income pet owners, as well as support goals to increase spay/neuter surgeries in our community and keep pets happy, healthy and in forever homes.”

You don’t need to worry about getting your fair share of cookies. Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee’s staff works overtime to produce more than five times the normal amount of handmade sugar cookies needed for their campaign.

Most of the Flying Star Cafes and Satellite Coffee retail locations will be outfitted with an Animal Humane information table providing an opportunity for patrons to learn about Animal Humane and our Circle of Care programs.

“This tantalizing month-long event with Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee has become a community favorite. We are grateful for this partnership and for all it has done to save pet’s lives,” said Peggy Weigle, Animal Humane’s Executive Director.

We are grateful to Flying Star Cafe and Satellite Coffee’s over 600 employees whose dedication and support makes Buy A Cookie, Save A Pet a success. We thank you for your devotion to helping homeless pets in our community!

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**Animal Humane’s 505 Pit Crew**

Since its inception in early 2011, Animal Humane’s newest outreach program, the 505 Pit Crew, had a simple goal: bring an end to dog-fighting in New Mexico by educating our community about this horrible form of cruelty and the lives—both animal and human—it effects.

The first session of the 505 Pit Crew Training Classes was offered in October of 2011. It had an amazing impact on both canine and human participants. For Janice Pettine, owner of Animal Humane alumni dog Emily, the class provided tools to work with Emily’s problem behaviors, allowing Emily to stay in her new home. For Yasmin Wattar, owner of a gregarious Pit Bull, Bogart, not only did the class improve Bogart’s manners to make him an even better Pit Bull ambassador, it increased her interest in being involved in Pit Bull rescue. Crystal Romero, who attended the 12 to 20-year-old class with her dog Majestic, not only received a great introduction to agility, but so loved the experience that she is now volunteering as an assistant in our training classes!

The 505 Pit Crew began as an idea by two Animal Humane staff members, Assistant Behaviorist, Lyndsay Anderson, and Behavior Outreach Specialist, Ellen Schmidt. They wanted to introduce an anti-dog fighting program to Albuquerque similar to the successful Humane Society of the United States’ End Dog Fighting programs in Chicago, Atlanta and Philadelphia. With the support of Animal Humane’s management and Board of Directors, Lyndsay and Ellen started a pilot program tailored to Albuquerque in March 2011. After receiving positive community reactions to the pilot, the 505 Pit Crew officially launched in August 2011.

Like the HSUS programs that inspired it, our 505 Pit Crew takes a two-pronged approach to reach Albuquerque residents. We offer in-school humane education to reach middle and high-school students, those most at risk of becoming involved in the gruesome blood sport, with an anti-fighting/anti-cruelty message. In addition, we offer dog-training classes for Pit Bull owners to provide a positive alternative to fighting and place well-trained Pit Bull ambassadors into our community. Our classes are free to Pit Bull owners between the ages of 12 and 20, and low-cost for owners 20-years or older. Interested teachers and Pit Bull owners may request classroom presentations or enroll for training on the Animal Humane website: pitcrew.animalhumanenm.org.

In 2011, the 505 Pit Crew reached approximately 225 students at six different schools and saw five Pit Bull/owner teams graduate from the first session of training classes. This year is already off to an amazing start. In January alone, the 505 Pit Crew reached over 460 students and our 20-years and over Training Classes are booked through April.
Creating a legacy for your loved one

In recent years, a number of donors have contacted our Development Department sharing they were personal representatives of their parents’ estate. The calls often begin with, “my parents were big animal lovers...” They go on to say, they would like to make a contribution in memory of their parent’s name so they may be permanently memorialized on our campus. Or, they would like to donate an asset from their parents’ estate to benefit the pets in our care. Animal Humane is extremely grateful for these gifts—as both scenarios generate much needed and greatly valued income for our organization.

During a recent visit by a son of a precious donor who included Animal Humane in her estate, he shared, “I wish I would have brought my mother here while she was alive. She would have loved knowing her gifts would ensure Animal Humane would always be here.”

If you would like to tour our three-acre campus and discuss how your legacy, or the legacy of loved one, may be kept alive and working to support homeless pets in our community, please contact Donna M. Stumpf, Senior Director of Development & Marketing at your convenience, 505.938.7888 or donnas@animalhumannm.org. We would be honored to share our facility with you.

Pet Save Rescues Another Life!

In January, the Marquez Family arrived at our Donor-subsidized Veterinary Clinic with Daisy, their lifeless two-year-old Husky. Following an evaluation and x-ray, the diagnosis was clear... Daisy had consumed something other than kibble and needed surgery. Given that the family’s resources were exhausted at the first veterinary practice they visited, Daisy’s life-saving care was funded by our Pet Save Fund—a valuable program made possible by our generous donors.

The complex surgery was performed by Dr. Rebecca Yarne. She quickly discovered a large amount of plastic in Daisy’s stomach and additional pieces in her lower intestines. Worse, they were connected by a common piece of string—a string that tugged back and forth in Daisy’s body causing great destruction. Dr. Yarne performed a gastrotomy, enterotomy with intestinal resectioning, and focal repairs of perforating lesions caused by the string and foreign bodies.

The good news! Daisy, a sweet, loving dog, recovered quickly and was reunited with her grateful owners. Animal Humane is equally thankful that gifts from our loyal donors made Daisy’s life-saving surgery possible!

November 11, 2011 - December 31, 2011

In Honor of People

ABQ Health Partners
Midwifery Service
Kathy & Brian Admire
Kaye & Brian Admire
Robyn Admire
Manuel B. Aragon, Sr. & Kids
Barbara Agnew-Rodwell
Amber Archer
Margaret I. Keller
Vondi Armendez
Kathleen R. Davis
Andy Armstrong
Jennifer A. Moon
Jean Arnett
Carla M. Riepe
Nancy Arnold
Dorothy P. Arnold
Julie Ashe
Melissa Jackson
Mary Baker & Hank
Sharon L. Reynolds
Bill Becker
Robert Murray
Debbie & Kirk Benton
Elizabeth Foster
Hannah Best
Julia & Milton Seligman
Cecily Putnam & Bill Crosley
Catherine & Rufus Putnam
June Blanchard
Mary Q. Wingate
Trudy Bollmann
W& Wayne Gaynor
Deborah Friedman
Lynn Bordlee-Rupp
Jennifer Koeman
Anita & John Briscoe
James Briscoe
Grace Brown
Maureen Kober
Edna Busby
Lynd Busby
Lynn Busby
Evelyn Wiennecke
Laurie Callahan
David Montano
Virginia Cameron
Theresa Kartum
Mary Campbell
Kathleen L. Campbell
Jill Casas
Kathleen R. Davis
Judy Cato
Cynthia & James Frost
Yvonne Chauvin
Susan B. Temple
Marti Chavez
Kathleen R. Davis
Sandra & Don Conti
Susan & Bill Clem
Arlene & Ted Dellin
Walter Krueger
James “Chip” Dennedy
Kathryn J. Dennedy
Bell & Christine Dobbeck
Ann Galloway Leigh
Paula Doris-Osborn
Rebecca Osborn
Jonathan Dunski
Cast of 101 Dalmatians Kids
Jeanne Eckhart
Gitty & David Williams
Karen Eldodd’s Birthday
Carmen & Dan W. Treat
Skip & Karen Eldodd
Carmen & Dan W. Treat

honorarium & memorial list

Nov 11, 2011 - Dec 31, 2011

We are grateful for the many Animal Humane friends who chose to give the gift of life in memory and in honor of those they love. We are sincerely thankful to have our pets be the beneficiaries of their 2011 holiday giving!